

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An interactive radio frequency tag apparatus, comprising:
a passive radio frequency transponder, including,
an antenna,
an interface for receiving an external stimulus associated with an environmental condition, and
one or more integrated circuits responsive to the external stimulus received at said interface to irreversibly change a state of said transponder between a first active state in which the transponder provides a first active response when polled by a polling device and a second active state in which the transponder provides a second active response when polled by said polling device, wherein the environmental condition causes an irreversible change in a material property of a component of the interface such that the transponder remains in the second active state even if power is not supplied continuously to the interactive radio frequency tag apparatus;
a switch connecting said one or more integrated circuits to said interface for receiving an external stimulus, wherein the switch must be closed in order for the state of the passive radio frequency transponder to be read; and
an output device configured to:
generate a radio frequency signal corresponding to the first active response and the second active response, as applicable, when said interactive radio frequency tag apparatus is polled, and
provide upon polling at a time when the transponder is in the second active state a sensory-perceptible output indicating that the transponder has been exposed to the environmental condition;
wherein the output device is configured to provide the sensory-perceptible output when the transponder is under power and to not provide the sensory-perceptible output when the transponder is not under power.

2 - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sensory-perceptible output includes a visible signal.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sensory-perceptible output includes an audible signal.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sensory-perceptible output includes a tactile signal.

10-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said interface comprises a sensor for detecting temperature, a transducer, and a variable voltage sensor.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said output device is at least one of a light-emitting diode and a speaker.

22. (Currently amended) A method of changing the response provided by a polled radio frequency tag, comprising:

providing an interactive radio frequency tag apparatus, having, a passive radio frequency transponder, including,

an antenna,

an interface for receiving an external stimulus associated with an environmental condition, and

one or more integrated circuits responsive to the external stimulus received at said interface to irreversibly change a state of said transponder between a first active state in which the transponder provides a first active response when polled by a polling device and a second active state in which the transponder provides a second active response when polled by said polling device, wherein the environmental condition causes an irreversible change in a material property of a component of the interface such that the transponder remains in the second active state even if power is not supplied continuously to the interactive radio frequency tag apparatus;

generating a radio frequency signal corresponding to the first active response and the second active response, as applicable, when said interactive radio frequency tag apparatus is polled; and

providing upon polling at a time when the transponder is in the second active state a sensory-perceptible output indicating that the transponder has been exposed to the environmental condition;

wherein the sensory-perceptible output is provided when the transponder is under power and wherein the sensory-perceptible output is not provided when the transponder is not under power.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the sensory-perceptible output is visible.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the sensory-perceptible output is audible.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the sensory-perceptible output is tactile.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said interface comprises one or more buttons.

28. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said interface comprises a sensor.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sensory-perceptible output includes the absence of a signal that is present if the transponder has not been exposed to the environmental condition.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the sensory-perceptible output includes the absence of a signal that is present if the transponder has not been exposed to the environmental condition.